



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

8461C Fort Smallwood Road • Pasadena, MD 21122
Phone: 410-255-5535 • Fax: 410-255-1552
Email: fishmssa@aol.com • Website: www.mssa.net

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Ocean City Wind Farm

(PASADENA, MD) – Tuesday evening the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) welcomed Dave Blazer of BluewaterWind LLC to discuss the proposed wind farm 12 miles offshore of Ocean City, Maryland.

The wind farm would consist of 200 wind turbines spaced one half of a mile apart and each standing nearly 30 stories high. Each turbine would produce around 3 mega-watts of electricity and all together around 600 mega-watts, enough to power 130,000 Maryland homes.

With our nation's dependence on fossil fuels and its harmful effects on the environment, wind farms are starting to become popular with most coastal states. Offshore wind farms are capable of producing large amounts of electricity with little to no damage to the environment.

"Environmentally, this just makes sense", Blazer said.

Maryland is in need of energy as it will start to experience an energy shortfall by 2011 and brown-outs and black-outs as early as 2013. Blazer stated that Maryland imports nearly 40% of its electricity and there are no new generation projects in the works. "This would put 600 mega-watts into the PJM grid for Maryland residents", said Blazer.

For the past twenty years the country of Denmark has relied on wind energy to help power its capital city of Copenhagen. Denmark is able to predict within 95% accuracy the amount of energy they will produce in a 24 hour period.

"One less barrel of foreign oil this country imports, is beneficial to everyone", said Richard Novotny, Executive Director of the MSSA.

Economically speaking, wind energy is considered to be the most readily available and technologically

ready for mass production and distribution. Unlike the current price for electricity, wind energy is very consistent.

BluewaterWind is asking for a long-term purchasing agreement from any of the major suppliers. This would allow Maryland to purchase electricity at a low and consistent price for a long period of time, therefore cutting back its imported electricity. The only cost associated with wind energy is the cost to build the wind turbines.

Blazer stated that BluewaterWind is in the process of getting its permits and going through the approval process. There are currently 45 agencies BluewaterWind must go through before they can start building.

The MSSA is concerned that the construction of the turbines would interrupt migratory fish and their habitat. Blazer said that, "The proposed location of the wind farm is not in any way going to affect their migration or habitat. If anything it will produce a spot for them to feed and possibly create a prime fishing location similar to the oil rigs in the Gulf."

Another concern of the MSSA was the navigational hazard it might create. Blazer said that there would be sufficient technologies in place to prevent any sort of navigational hazards, from lights to GPS locations.

BluewaterWind LLC has a website where you can learn more about wind energy and all of their projects at www.bluewaterwind.com, <http://wjz.com/local/beach.wind.wind.2.879463.html>

Sincerely,

Dave Smith, Associate Executive Director
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association